

# THE CAYLEY HUSTLER

VOL. II, No. 30

CAYLEY, ALTA., AUG. 2, 1911

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A. NICHOLSON, Editor

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**DRY LAND ALFALFA**

Address by D. Bismarck Before the South Dakota Association

In compliance with the request made by Prof. Chamberlain, I shall give you a short recital of my efforts in the line of alfalfa culture.

My experience with this great forage plant dates back to the year 1902. In that year I tried a pound or two of seed raised in the Black Hills, I sowed it on land which had been broken up the year before.

The first season it did very well. It stood thick on the ground and was what is commonly termed a good stand. The winter following was very dry, and my alfalfa was mostly killed out, only a few isolated plants which had sprung up in an adjacent corn field being left. These few plants lived for several years after, and became quite large. This encouraged me.

Two years later I tried 200 pounds of Montana seed. I followed the general instructions and sowed 20 pounds to the acre, with the result that it came up very thick. The second year it began to die out, and this is on ground that has since and is still growing good alfalfa.

Had it not been for two facts I should have quit the alfalfa culture for good; but this is what kept me trying. The same year on one little upland plot I had sowed a small amount of Turkistan and an equal amount of Montana seed side by side, giving the Turkistan the highest and poorest part of the plot.

On examination I found that the Montana was killed out in spots, while the Turkistan had withstood the winter well and showed no signs of dying out, even though, as I said before, I had given it the poorest ground, higher and dryer. While I had seeded the Turkistan as thick as the Montana, luckily, or better perhaps, fortunately, a large per cent. did not come up, and so left the stand thin; but the plants showed great vigor, stood out, and made a very strong root. This same little plot is still alive, and the past year, in spite of the exceedingly dry summer we experienced in this part of Stanley County, yielded three abundant crops of hay. But what became of the Montana? Well, it simply became a minus quantity. Three years after seeding there was not a trace of it left.

Now, gentlemen, I want to state what I learned from these experiments. In the first place I learned that the Turkistan variety is the best for our country west of the river, where the summers are often hot and dry and the winters are variable and changeable, with, generally speaking, little or no snow. Second, I learned that, that one must sow thin if one wants to get a field of strong plants. Five pounds to the acre is a great plenty. I also learned that one should not expect alfalfa to be at its best before it is three years old.

I am convinced to-day that more men have failed in alfalfa culture by reason of too thick seeding than from any other cause. Seed thin and give the plant a

chance to develop a strong root and it will grow just as many spears of hay as it finds room for. I have counted as many as 150 spears on one plant. I think that one good strong plant to the square foot is better than one dozen, and really, I think it is enough. On a trip through Colorado and Utah last August, I noticed in the famous Jordan Valley that the majority and best of the alfalfa fields had the plants thin on the ground.

I have alfalfa where I seeded five pounds and where I seeded seven pounds. Both this year and last the thinly seeded made the best seed crops. This year it yielded me \$40 per acre for seed. I consider this country an ideal seed country.

Now as to its feeding quality: It comes nearer to grain than any other forage plant. Horses will do hard work on alfalfa rations; hogs will hold their own and winter on it. I am wintering 300 hogs this winter, and their grain rations are less than one pound of macaroni wheat per hog per day.

I run my first cutting through the threshing machine and separate the coarser from the finer feed; the fine chaffy feed is stacked up and fed to the hogs. The horses and cattle get the coarse feed. The straw after the seed is taken out also makes good feed. It is better than the most of the prairie hay. As pasture for pigs, alfalfa cannot be beaten.

I raise my alfalfa on bottom lands along the Cheyenne river, although I have experimented on upland, as previously stated. I believe that by proper cultivation it can be profitably grown on upland. I should, however, pursue a different method, that is, I should plant it in rows and cultivate it. In preparing the ground I should make ditches at least six inches deep and 24 inches apart for the rows. Plant the seed in these ditches, cover slightly, and then before winter sets cover the plants at least three inches with dirt. The next spring, after the plants are well sprouted, I should level the field. Now the plants are protected against cold and heat, and the field is in such a shape that it can be disced after every crop. This will keep the soil loose and conserve the moisture. I feel that by this method of procedure it would be possible to raise large seed crops.

Nature taught me this lesson, when in the summer of 1909, a portion of my field was flooded by high water from the Cheyenne river. The alfalfa was in bloom and ready to cut for hay. The water was very muddy and deposited from six to eight inches of silt. I thought my field was ruined. This year when the late frost came which was harmful to alfalfa fields, all my alfalfa was frozen down. The covered alfalfa came up and made a splendid crop of hay and later a good crop of seed; but that part of the field which did not receive the silt covering the summer before, was left in a sickly condition. The drought came, and the field did not even make one crop of hay worth cutting.

Another advantage of having the crown of the plant covered is the possibility of pasturing it without any harmful effects.

In conclusion, I will state that any land which will grow two crops of alfalfa a year will pay the owner 10 per cent. interest on seed from \$100 to \$200 per acre, no

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matter whether you raise seed or use it for hogs and raise pork for the market.

**Girls and Boys Should be Frisky, Gay Little Animals**

Mothers, would you make your children really and truly happy and give them the firmly grounded belief that the world—strange old wonderful world in to which they have been dropped from their know not where, and they know not why—then learn them to "frivol." Don't take things—any things—too serious. There is nothing in the world so wholly pitiful as a too serious, sober faced little child. Children are meant to be frisky, gay little animals. I allow them the privilege of fulfilling their rightful mission of childhood. Don't lay burdens of seriousness on their little shoulders. Soon enough there will be burdens all their own, and if these small shoulders are strengthened and reinforced by childhood years of irresponsible joyousness, they will be ever so much better able and willing to bear burdens all their own.

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**FARMER**—Well wife, the barn wants painting, the fence is down, the chickens are in the garden, the crows are off the granary, the pump's no good, we haven't a knife that we can cut the meat, the linoleum is full of holes, the house is swarming with flies, the chickens are covered with lice, we haven't got a decent chair to sit on, the buggy squeals worse than a German band, the cows swallowed the wire stretchers, and the pig eat the hammer. I think I'll quit farming.

**WIFE**—Let us go and see McMeekin & Scragg and get the place fixed up. We're going to have a good crop this year, and I know the boys will treat us right.

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## Printing

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### Local News

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F. F. Butler shipped a car of oats on Tuesday.

J. W. James was a Vulcan visitor on Monday.

Miss Livergood of Staveley was visiting friends here on Monday.

J. Elves and family are visiting his brothers at Vulcan.

Jas. Campbell of Bow Island is visiting his son, Gordon, this week.

Jas. McConkey shipped two cars of cattle to Calgary on Tuesday.

Mrs. Grieve of Calgary is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Howard.

Herb. Elves of Vancouver is visiting his brothers here and at Vulcan.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Scragg returned from their honeymoon trip on Sunday.

Miss Drumheller of Spokane is visiting her brother, Jack, at the C. C. ranch.

Rev. Mr. Mann returned to Cayley on Friday, accompanied by Mrs. Mann and family.

Vance—At Cayley, on Sunday, July 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. John Vance, a son.

Dr. Brown and F. F. Macdonald took in the baseball match at Nanton on Monday between Okotoks and Nanton.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Sloane are intending to take a month's trip to Learnington, Ont., this week. It is some eight years since Mr. Sloane visited his former home.

W. H. Kitchen &amp; Sons unloaded a car of coal on Monday. They were kind enough to supply several citizens with loads previous to hauling it away to their farm.

Remember the reception to the Rev. and Mrs. Mann on Wednesday, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Scragg in the Methodist church. A hearty welcome to all.

Messrs Campbell and Clarke of Assumption, Ill., are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Campbell. They express themselves as delighted at the fine looking crops that Cayley can produce.

Messrs Sloane &amp; Jakes have just put through the sale of Chas. Brown's half section, two miles east of Cayley, to the Douglass Bros. This is a very fine property and a good buy. Land is going up in price in this section.

Southern Alberta will this year have its first really good crop of flax. Fifteen bushels to the acre is considered a good average yield, and there is no reason to believe that the yield this year will fall below this mark. What little barley is grown will be ripe within a few days and will also yield well. Taking everything into consideration Southern Alberta will this year have the most prosperous year in its history.

Farmers in this southern country are almost unanimous in protesting against the boosting crop reports that are being continually sent out. Since early spring the large city daily press has every few days, under sensational headlines, announced the enormous crop assured, and dwelt upon the glowing prospects. This state of affairs has gone to the extreme, and is very much overdue. One outcome of this continual crop boosting is a tendency to keep the prices lower. An excessive supply always tends to lower prices, and these crop story exaggerations are always of the opinion that there are to be remarkable yields, and an enormous quantity of wheat for export.

Frank Walker's brother-in-law, from South Kansas, is visiting him this week.

Mrs. W. H. Allan arrived home from Medicine Hat on Thursday. Note the smile on Will's face.

Misses Ruby and Myrtle Fallow of the Hat are rusticated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Allan.

There will be service as usual at Coleraine school on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The Presbyterian Church Aid meets on Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Schwoob.

Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley of Cleg-horn, Iowa, are at present visiting at their daughter's, Mrs. Alb. P. Ducommun, north of town.

Albert H. Ducommun, son-in-law, of Mr. Bowers, arrived from Cleg-horn, Iowa, on Friday morning to visit friends.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Simonson of Staveley gave Cayley a call one day last week on their return home from an auto trip to Banff.

Mr. Wilke of Seattle, who has been in Cayley the past few months looking after his interests here, returned to his home on Monday.

If the C.P.R. officials carry out their promise of a sufficient car supply this autumn the country will owe them a sincere and hearty vote of appreciation.

A game of baseball is announced for Friday afternoon next between Nanton and our boys at Cayley. This is expected to be a fast and exciting game. Don't miss it.

There will be the usual services in the Presbyterian Hall next Sunday. Bible school at 10.15 and public worship at 11 and 7.30. The sermon subject for the morning will be "Sin," and in the evening "Life for a Look." The bible school lesson is "Jeremiah tried and acquitted," Jer. 26:7-19. Golden text, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

The C C ranch has 900 acres of the finest sample of fall wheat to be found in Alberta, which is expected to produce a phenomenal yield. Eight binders are ready to commence work on this patch at the word "go!" In addition to the accommodation already provided, twenty new granaries are now in course of erection, with a capacity of some 2000 bushels each, which will give some idea of what is expected this year on this prosperous ranch.

Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, advises those in need of harvest help who have not already sent in their names, to write Commissioner R. J. Daly, of Winnipeg, stating the number required and the date when the men will be needed. There will be no shortage of harvest help, said Mr. Marshall, and Alberta will need from ten to twelve thousand men.

During question time in the House of Commons on Wednesday Mr. Geo. Taylor asked, "Does the government consider it desirable that steps should be taken to prevent cruelty and injustice by reason of marriages contracted before a duly ordained clergyman, but afterwards declared invalid?" Mr. Taylor also asked if the government proposed to take any steps to legalize every marriage solemnized in Canada. The question, of course, had reference to the "No Temere" decree.

Sir Allen Aylesworth replied that the opinion of the government was that it had no power or jurisdiction in the premises.

### An Affecting Scene

On Saturday two strangers met on Railway street, Cayley, and the following dialogue took place:

Stranger No. 1—"Can you tell me where I can find Sandy Durham?"

Stranger No. 2—"Well, stranger, it's funny, but I have a similar question to ask you. Can you tell me where I can find J. Schwoob?"

Stranger No. 1—"Kind of staggered." Why, stranger, I'm J. Schwoob!"

Stranger No. 2—"Say, mon, was it Sandy Durham ye asstir for? Why, mon, I'm Sandy Durham?"

Stranger No. 1—"Get along! You don't fool me. It's Sandy Durham I'm looking for; not a kid like you. It's Piper Durham I want!"

Stranger No. 2—"Why, mon, I'm that same Sandy. I dinna ken no ither Sandy Durham in Cayley."

Stranger No. 1—"And I don't know any other J. Schwoob in Cayley."

Stranger No. 2—"But mon alive! The J. Schwoob I ken had a moustache, and you hae none."

Stranger No. 1—"And the Sandy Durham I knew had a moustache, and you hae none."

And then it dawned upon them that they were really fellow citizens, but that tonsorial artist Bowen had done the hypnotic trick in shaving off their facial ornaments, so linking arms the two tickled citizens marched off to get a wee drap of ice cream at Kwong Lung's, joyful at having found themselves again.

### Boost a Bit

Here I you discontented knocker, Growlin' 'bout imagined ills; Chloroform yer dismal talker; Take a dose o' liver pills.

Stop your durm ki-o-tee howlin', Chaw some sand and get some grit; Don't sit in the dumps a growlin', Jump the roost

An' boost A bit!

Fall in while the band's a-playin', Ketch the step an' march along; 'Steard o' pessimistic brayin' Join the hallelujah song!

Drop yer hammer—do some rootin'! Grab a horn, you cuss, and split Every echo with your tootin', Jump the roost

An' boost A bit!

### ALFALFA

On another page will be found an able article on Alfalfa growing, from the pen of Prof. B. Bierwaghen, and given before the South Dakota Association. As alfalfa growing is occupying a very prominent place at the present time by many farmers in this district, the article referred to will, no doubt, be of interest to many of our readers. That alfalfa can be successfully grown in the Cayley district has been proven without a doubt. For the benefit of others we would be pleased to publish correspondence, giving the ex-

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presence of any who have grown alfalfa in this district, or any article bearing on the subject that may be of interest to others, as we believe alfalfa growing to be among one of the best paying feed products that the farmer can grow. Prof. Bierwaghen declares alfalfa to come nearer to grain than any other forage plant.

### MAY GO WEST OF C. & E. LINE

The matter of the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific Railways from Calgary south is causing the provincial government a lot of thinking. The C. N. R. line is supposed to run between the present C. P. R. line and the proposed G. T. P. route. Now the towns of High River, Nanton, Staveley and Claresholm are objecting to be passed up by the C. N. R. and say the roads should either run through them or go far enough away so that the new centres it created will not hurt them. The reply of the C. N. R. is that they cannot go further east, for there they would strike the G. T. P. Calgary-Lethbridge line. "We will move if the G. T. P. does," says the C. N. R., but it is pointed out that this would bring the latter into the C. P. R. Kipp-Aldersyde line. It is now said that the question of moving the C. N. R. west of the C. & E. has been considered.

The route west mentioned in the above article is supposed to be through the Happy Valley district, some twenty-five miles west of Cayley. Should it eventually take this route it will bring the foothill country into great prominence and value. However, it is uncertain at present what may be the final issue. One thing is certain, if the present route is followed the towns along the C. & E. division will be practically ruined, as far as business centres and growth are concerned.

The first harvest excursion left Toronto by C. P. R. special on Tuesday. It was made up of 14 coaches and two baggage cars. There were about 800 citizens of Ontario aboard, who will help to gather in the western wheat.

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